Approved For Release 2007/10/26 : CIA-RDP80-00810A007600190009-2

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY [redacted] Poland REPORT

TOPIC Military Unit [redacted] near Bobrek 25X1

25X1

EVALUATION [redacted] PLACE OBTAINED [redacted]

DATE OF CONTENT [redacted] 25X1

DATE OBTAINED [redacted] DATE PREPARED 8 July 1955

25X1

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

25X1

REMARKS This is UNEVALUATED Information

25X1

1. Prior to December 1954, military Unit [redacted] a labor battalion of the Polish Army, was quartered in a camp of brick barracks between Bobrek (Q 51/Y 47) and Karf (Q 51/Y 47) just near the Barbara pit, formerly Johanna pit; The battalion was subordinate to a brigade headquarters in Chorzow (Q 51/Y 57) jurisdiction of which was limited to labor troops. This brigade headquarters was subordinate to the supreme command agency of all labor troops in Katowice (Stalinogord, Q 51/Y 57). This agency which had moved from Warsaw to Katowice in about [redacted] dinate directly to the Ministry of Defense. The transfe[redacted] n Warsaw to Katowice was evident from the statement [redacted] who talked about the [redacted] disadvantages arising from this transfer. Service with the military labor units was the so-called substitute military service (zastepcza sluzba wojskowa). The command agency in Katowice was referred to as the ZSW (Zastepcza Sluszba Wojskowa). 25X1

2. Unit [redacted] was generally organized into five companies. When the recruits arrived in fall it was sometimes organized into six companies. The strength figures of the companies were high and ranged between 350 and 500 men. The soldiers, all members of young classes on active military service, wore army uniforms and red service color. Overalls were provided by the mine administration. Fifty percent of the soldiers of the unit were German and fifty percent were Polish. The Poles included sons of former farmers or formerly propertied circles, soldiers who had relatives living in western countries, and juveniles who had been sentenced by a court to imprisonment. 25X1 25X1

3. Military training was largely limited to the first two or three months of military service, while work in the mine was subsequently emphasized. The men worked three shifts per day each of which lasted eight hours. Recruits were assigned to the unit in fall and spring. The term of service was normally 24 months, but was occasionally extended by period of up to six months. Political indoctrination was held twice a week. The soldiers discussed and treated in working teams the topics of the lectures. A library was available. The unit lacked weapons and equipment for continuation of military training. One soldier, for instance, only once participated in a record practice at a rifle range throughout this 2-year term of active service. Technical training was only held with the few

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rifles which were available. The unit had two Star 20 trucks which were used for service drives. The commitment of the unit in the event of mobilization was never mentioned.

4. Privates received a payment of zloty 8.00 per month. In consideration of the work done at the pits, the latter remitted funds to the unit which paid the expenses for billets, rations and clothing. A portion of their wages was paid out to the soldiers for their own use. The ration quantity for working soldiers was fixed at 4,000 calories per day. Per capita quantities which were due daily included 600 grams bread, 85 gram meat, 15 grams bacon, 200 grams potatoes, 240 grams vegetable, 80 grams legumes, 50 grams jam, 60 grams sugar, 25 grams margarine, 20 grams lard, and 40 grams wheat flour. Soldiers working underground in the mines received an extra lunch which was provided by the mine administration.

[redacted] Comment. Labor Battalion [redacted] has been mentioned in a previous report as located in a barracks camp near Bobrek. It is again confirmed by the present report. The present information designates the superior headquarters of this unit. The brigade headquarters in Chorzow which is mentioned in the present report is unknown. 25X1

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